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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The academy held its semi-annual meeting in New York, Oct. 28–30, 1879, in the new building of Columbia College, under the presidency of Prof. William B. Rogers. In opening the meeting, Prof. Rogers made the following references to the recent discoveries in science:

"In all branches of discovery we seem to be catching the clews of far-reaching thought, that stretch out where, as yet, no man's foot has trodden. As among some of the most recent of these may be instanced the evidence, amounting almost to proved assurance, by which Prof. Whitney places the existence of man at least as far back as the Pliocene era. We have the researches of Prof. Lockyer, almost demonstrating that substances hitherto regarded as elements can be regarded as compounds, and indicating that all matter may be ultimately resolvable into simple forms. There are the marvelous displays of what has been called the 'radiant force' of matter, as shown in the experiments of Prof. Crookes with new varieties of the radiometer. New ranges of profound inquiry are opening before us in the directions indicated by electrical inventions, such as the microphone and the telephone."

The following papers were read on subjects connected with biology and geology and anthropology: Original researches reported in the second medical volume of the medical and surgical history of the war of the rebellion, by J. J. Woodward; Some observations on the structure of the human brain, by J. C. Dalton; Some remarks on a new map of the Catskill mountains, and on the topographical relations of that mountain group to the adjacent regions of the Appalachian system, by A. Guyot; On the glycogenic function of the liver, and On old river-beds of California, by Joseph Le Conte; On some new and remarkable forms of Crinoidea from the lower Helderburg formation, and Notes on the *Lycoperdites vanuxemi* and allied forms, by James Hall; On the vegetation of the Atlantic coast of North America in the Cretaceous age, and On some interesting deposits of gold and silver ores in Utah and Colorado, by J. S. Newberry.

Prof. Guyot, in the course of his remarks on the Catskill mountains, distributed copies of his new map among the members especially interested. His object was to call attention to the geological problems exhibited by the Catskill plateau. He did not regard the carving of the mountains as glacial work, though the evidence of glacial scratches was not wanting. The process which had taken place, he thought, was an elevation of the whole district. But at the time of that rise the Adirondack formation was already in position, and by it the Catskill plateau was squeezed as it rose. The mountains which now occupy the place of that plateau were left by erosion, their valleys being carved out by rivers. Prof. James Hall, in the discussion that followed, expressed himself as delighted with the adhesion of so good an observer as Prof. Guyot to this theory of the formation of mountains by erosion, and not by their separate upheaval. Prof. Rogers described an instance where one of the Shenandoah mountains could scarcely have been formed by a separate upheaval, for all its strata were horizontal from bottom to top; but the surrounding region was full of the evidences of disturbance.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, October 8. — Mr. W. Wells read a paper on the new paths at Waterville, N. H.; Prof. C. E. Fay gave an account of the connection of the Portland White Mountain Club with Mt. Carrigan; President Niles spoke of the mountain studies of the late Violet-le-Duc; Prof. A. Geikie, of Edinburgh, was present, and addressed the meeting.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, October 15.—Prof. E. S. Morse read some archæological notes on Japan, and Mr. W. O. Crosby remarked on distorted pebbles in Conglomerate from the Brighton district of Boston.

PROCEEDINGS OF MIDDLESEX SCIENTIFIC FIELD CLUB, MALDEN, MASS., November 5.—Frank S. Collins read notes on the marine Algæ of Middlesex county, Mass, in which twenty-nine species and one variety were enumerated. Among those new or rare in this locality were *Ralfsia clavata* Cronan, *Enteromorpha clathrata* Grev., var. *prostrata*, *Cladophora expansa* Kutz., *Rhizoclonium riparium* Harvey, and *Spirulina tenuissima* Kutz. The county has no coast line, and all collections were made in a small stream flowing into Mystic river. H. L. Moody read notes on the Asters, enumerating twenty species and two varieties collected in the county.—*Geo. E. Davenport, Cor. Sec'y.*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, November 3.—The regular fortnightly meeting was held Nov. 3d. B. B. Redding occupied the chair. F. Slate, Mrs. T. H. Hittell, Oscar T. Barron, Hon. John H. Sanders. Frederick Ludemann, C. A. Webb and C. E. Locke were elected members of the association. In the absence of Prof. Davidson, who was to have addressed the association, Prof. Cope, who was present was invited to speak. The invitation was accepted, and the gentleman spoke at some length on several points in the palæontology and zoölogy of California. He first exhibited the skull of a large bear, found by J. A. Richardson in a cave in Shasta county, on the McCloud river. This specimen was said to belong to a species hitherto unknown, which resembles the bear of the pampas of Buenos Ayres. The California cave bear is so far distinct from the existing bears as to make it necessary to refer it to a distinct genus, which is probably the same as that to which the pampean bear belongs. Prof. Cope named it *Arctotherium simus*. It was as large as the grizzly bear, and is peculiar in its short muzzle and bull-dog face. The speaker next exhibited a specimen of a lizard from the museum at the university at Berkeley, which was collected by Dr. J. G. Cooper, of the Geological Survey of this State. He stated that it was a new species of a little-known genus (named Xantusia by Baird), and formed an interesting addition to the herpetology of California. He named it *Xantusia riversiana*, in compliment to Mr. Rivers, of the University of California. Prof. Cope next called attention to a pair of feet of a deer belonging to the Academy, which were sent from Mendocino county. Each of these possessed but one central toe and hoof, instead of the usual pair. The speaker stated that the toes of the hinder feet were united throughout, and were so far developed beyond the usual point attained by the ordinary ruminant. The toes of the fore limb were different, one only being continued to the hoof, all the others being rudimental. "On the Hog-wallow Land of the San Joaquin valley," a very interesting paper, was read by Judge Hastings, and gave rise to considerable discussion. The title refers to the mound-lands common on the Pacific coast, such as occur at San Diego, on the Sacramento, Columbia, etc.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

BULLETIN OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE TERRITORIES, VOL. V, NO. 2.—September 6. On the Coatis, by J. A. Allen. On the present status of *Passer domesticus* in America, with especial reference to the Western States and Territories, by Dr. Elliott Coues. The Laramie group of Western Wyoming and adjacent regions, by A. C. Peale. On Lithophane and new Noctuidæ, by A. R. Grote. Palæontological Papers, No. 11.—Remarks upon certain Carboniferous fossils from Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, and certain Cretaceous corals from Colorado, together with descriptions of new forms, by C. A. White; The so-called Two-ocean pass, by F. V. Hayden; On the extinct species of Rhinoceridæ of North America and their allies, by E. D. Cope. Second installment of American Ornithological Bibliography, by Elliott Coues.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPICAL SCIENCE.—October. On some points in the development of the common newt, by W. B. Scott and H. F. Osborn. The structure of *Haliphysema tumanowiczii*, by E. R. Lankester (is not a sponge but a Protozoön). *Lithamœba discus*, one of the Gymnomyxa, by E. R. Lankester. On the structure of the vertebrate Spermatozoön, by H. Gibbes.

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.—October. On the classification of the British Pre-cambrian rocks, by H. Hicks. Origin of pipe ore, by J. P. Lesley.